jurisdiction and powers in suitable areas and centres; and

(iii) establishing other tiers or systems within the judicial hierarchy to reduce the volume of work in the Supreme Court and the High Courts;

(b) the matters for which Tribunals (excluding Services Tribunals) as envisaged in Part-XIV-A of the Constitution need to be established expeditiously and various aspects related to their establishment and working;

(c) the procedural laws with a view generally to disposing of cases expeditiously, eliminating unnecessary litigation, delays in hearing of cases and reforms in procedures and procedural laws and particularly to devising procedures appropriate to the subjects envisaged in items (a) (i) and (a) (ii);

(d) the method of appointments to subordinate courts, subordinate judiciary;

(e) the training of Judicial Officers;

(f) the role of the legal profession in strengthening the system of administration of justice;

(g) the desirability of formulation of the norms, which the Government and the Public Sector Undertakings should follow in the settlement of disputes including a review of the present system for conduct of litigation on behalf of the Government and such Undertakings;

(h) the cost of litigation with a view to lessening the burden on the litigants;

(i) formation of an All India Judicial Service; and

(j) such other matters as the Commission considers proper or necessary for the purposes aforesaid or as may be referred to it from time to time by the Government.

Enquiry in fire in COD Jabalpur

1075. SHRIMATI RATAN KUMARI:
SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA:
SHRI RAJNI RANJAN SAHU:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have completed the inquiry into the fire incident in Central Ordnance Depot in Jabalpur recently;

(b) if so, the details of the report; and

(c) if no, report has so far been received, by when the same is likely to be received?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI SANTOSH MOHAN DEV): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The Inquiry is likely to be complete during this month and the report is expected thereafter.

Cases registered by CBI against public servants

1076. SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA:
KUMARI SUSHILA TIRIA:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the number and details of cases registered by CBI against the public servants for involvement in crime like fraud, cheating, defalcation and corruption since January, 1988;

(b) the number and details of cases for which charge-sheets have been framed; and

(c) what steps Government propose to take to contain the rising trend in such crimes?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) 268 cases have been registered against public servants including officials of Nationalised Banks.

(b) All the cases are under investigation.

(c) The Government has adopted a three pronged strategy viz. preventive, surveillance and detection and deterrent punitive action to combat corruption, and all offenders will be booked in accordance with law.

Vacancies of Judges and pending cases in various Courts

1077. DR. BAPU KALDATE:
SHRI M. S. GURUPADASWAMY:
SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE:
SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN:

Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of cases pending at present in the Supreme Court and different High Court and the number of them are pending for more than ten years, what were these figures three years ago;

(b) the total number of vacancies of judges at present in the different High Courts, the State-wise figures thereof and the steps proposed to be taken to fill up them; and

(c) the steps taken to reduce the number of pending cases in the last three years and with what results?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI HANS RAJ BHARDWAJ): (a) As per information furnished by the Registries of the Supreme Court and High Courts, the position has been indicated in the Annexure attached. (*See* Appendix CXLVI, Annexure No. 41).

(b) The position has been indicated in the Annexure attached [*See* Appendix CXLVI, Annexure No. 42] Selection of Judges involves deliberation in consultation with the concerned constitutional authorities and is a continous process. Government make all possible efforts to ensure that vacancies of judges are filled in expeditiously.

(c) The steps taken during the last three years to reduce pendency in courts have been indicated in the Annexure attached. (*See* Appendix CXLVI, Annexure No. 43). As a result of the steps taken the average rate of disposal per judge per year has generally increased.

Explosion in the HWP in Baroda

1078. SHRI RAOOF VALIULLAH:
SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Heavy Water Plant at Baroda has been closed down recently following an explosion, if so, the details thereof and whether a similar explosion occurred in 1977;

(b) whether the Employees Union has represented to AEC and Government regarding safety conditions at the plant;

(c) whether an inquiry has been held on the incident and when will the report be submitted to Government;

(d) what steps have been taken to avoid recurrence of such incidents; and

(e) what are the capacities of the existing and planned HWPs and whether India is self sufficient in this res-